



INSIGHTS

108th Congress

June 22, 2004

*Also available on the FEMP Home Page at
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Weekly Summary

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INSIGHTS is prepared expressly for the Department of Energy's Office of Federal Energy Management Programs (FEMP). The purpose of **INSIGHTS** is to provide FEMP management staff with timely information on legislative activities relevant to the program. **INSIGHTS** is prepared for FEMP by Energetics, Incorporated, (202) 479-2748.

WEEKLY SUMMARY

CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE

House

- Committee on Appropriations mark up of two FY 2005 appropriations bills: (1) Agriculture, Rural Development and Food and Drug Administration and (2) Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary.
- *(Tentative)* Floor vote on FY 2005 Appropriations for (1) Energy and Water Development and (2) Defense.

Senate

- Subcommittee on Defense and full Committee on Appropriations mark ups of FY 2005 Appropriations for Defense.

FY 2005 BUDGET RESOLUTION FY 2005 APPROPRIATIONS

Various bills moved through the House last week, including FY 2005 appropriations for (1) Interior and Related Agencies, (2) Energy and Water Development, and (3) Defense; one bill, Homeland Security, is progressing in both the House and Senate. The House also plans to begin work this week on (1) Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administration and (2) Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary.

House and Senate appropriations chairs, Bill Young (R/FL) and Ted Stevens (R/AK) have been developing a strategy for passing FY 2005 appropriations bills before adjourning at the end of July (through Labor Day). Chairman Young stated, "it would be my plan to take all 13 bills and incorporate all 13 into one bill and to go to conference with the Senate." To date, the Senate has yet to pass an FY 2005 Budget Resolution, which traditionally serves as the guide for establishing FY 2005 funding levels for appropriators.

More details on provisions of interest will be provided in next week's issue of the *FEMP Monthly Update*.

COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY LEGISLATION

Last week, the House acted to move forward comprehensive energy legislation.

- House approved the \$31 billion *H.R. 4503 – Energy Policy Act of 2004*, which is basically a renumbered version of the House approved conference report for *H.R. 6 – Energy Policy Act of 2003*.

In the Senate, Pete Domenici (R/NM) drafted, but has yet to present to the full Senate for debate a new version of comprehensive energy legislation (*S. 2095 – Energy Policy Act of 2004*), which he introduced earlier this year. At this time, the Senate Leadership has no schedule for placing the bill on the Senate floor, and without a bill, the two chambers cannot negotiate and produce a conference report.

- House approved a new tax bill, *H.R. 4520* – (No Short Title), which was drafted by the Committee on Ways and Means. Unlike the Senate version of this bill, which includes an extensive array of tax credits and other financial incentives for the renewable, oil, natural gas, and nuclear industries, the House bill only provides limited incentives in their bill. *H.R. 4520* includes an extension for an existing renewable energy credit that expired at the end of 2003. The credit, which applies to the production of electricity via biomass and wind resources, provides generators with a 1.8 cent tax credit through 2005.

The next step is to create a House - Senate conference committee to resolve difference between the two tax bills and negotiate the terms of a single bill for the two chambers to approve.

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COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

HOUSE

Summary of Hearings

No hearings of interest to report

SENATE

Summary of Hearings

No hearings of interest to report

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STATUS OF FY 2005 APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

* Red text highlights developments since the last issue of *INSIGHTS*.

(In Millions)

HOUSE

SENATE

Jurisdiction/ FY 2004 Budget Request	302(b) Discretionary Allocations/ Approved Funding Level (Billions)	Bill No.	Full Cmte. Mark Up	Floor Vote	Vote on Conf Rpt.	302(b) Discretionary Allocations/ Approved Funding Level (Billions)	Bill No	Full Cmte. Mark Up	Floor Vote	Vote on Conf. Rpt.
Agriculture	\$16.78		6/23			TBD				
Commerce	\$39.78		6/23			TBD				
Defense	\$392.14 \$416.9	H.R. 4613	6/16	6/23		TBD		6/22		
Energy and Water Development	\$27.99 \$28.0	H.R. 4614	6/16	6/25		TBD				
Homeland Security	\$32 \$32	H.R. 4567	6/9	6/18		TBD \$33.1	S. 2537	6/17		
Interior	\$19.73 \$19.5	H.R. 4568	6/9	6/17		TBD				
Labor / HHS	\$142.05					TBD				
Military Construction	\$9.553	H.R. 4424				TBD				
Transportation and Treasury	\$25.714					TBD				
VA/HUD	\$92.129	H.R. 4423 (VA) H.R. 4421 (EPA)				TBD				

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NEW LEGISLATION

(Note: Once a new bill is introduced, the Government Printing Office generally requires from several days to one week to make the bill available in print)

HOUSE

Details on FY 2004 appropriations bills will be provided in the June issue of the *FEMP Monthly Update*.

SENATE

Details on FY 2004 appropriations bills will be provided in the June issue of the *FEMP Monthly Update*.

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ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES

FY 2005 Appropriations – “Statements of Administration Policy”

Last week, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued Statements on Administration Policy on two House appropriations bills, both of which have cleared the Committee on Appropriations. Administration comments on provisions of interest included in the House bills are provided below.

H.R. 4567 – FY 2005 Appropriations for Homeland Security (\$32 billion in discretionary spending) Administration supports passage of the bill, but expressed some concerns regarding provisions unrelated to energy efficiency.

H.R. 4568 – FY 2005 Interior and Related Agencies (\$19.5 billion in discretionary spending) Administration supports passage of the bill, but expressed some concerns, including the following.

Department of the Interior

The House is urged to restore the National Park Service maintenance and construction funds that were requested as part of the President's plan to reduce the park maintenance backlog. These funds are targeted at restoring park facilities to an acceptable condition.

Department of Energy

The Administration also urges the House to restore the \$6.5 million reduction to fuel cell technologies under the Hydrogen Fuel Initiative to keep this important initiative on track to make our air significantly cleaner and our country less dependent on foreign sources of oil.

Secretary Abraham's Comments on Comprehensive Energy Legislation

Last week, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham issued a statement in recognition of the House's action to pass *H.R. 4305 – Energy Policy Act of 2004* (see summary above). In his remarks, the Secretary said in part:

I applaud the efforts of the House of Representatives and energy leaders in the U.S. Senate as they push forward with energy legislation that helps answer America's energy challenges, protects consumers, creates jobs, fuels an ever-expanding economy, and lessens our dependence on foreign sources of energy. We need real solutions to meet America's energy challenges. This administration has a plan, and all members of the House and Senate should vote to pass comprehensive energy legislation.

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HEARINGS SCHEDULE

HOUSE – COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/ Location
June 23 Committee on Appropriations (NEW)	Bill Young (R/FL)	Mark Up <i>FY 2005 Appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administrations</i>	N/A	10:00 a.m. Room 2359 Rayburn Office Building
June 23 Committee on Appropriations (NEW)	Bill Young (R/FL)	Mark Up <i>FY 2005 Appropriations for Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary</i>	N/A	10:00 a.m. Room 2359 Rayburn Office Building

HOUSE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

No activities of interest have been scheduled.

SENATE – COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/ Location
June 22 Subcommittee on Defense (NEW)	Jerry Lewis (R/CA)	Mark Up <i>FY 2005 Appropriations for Defense</i>	N/A	10:45 a. m. Room 192 Dirksen Office Building

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/ Location
June 22	Ted Stevens	Mark Up	TBA	3:30 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations	(R/AK)	<i>FY 2005 Appropriations for Defense</i>		Room 106 Dirksen Office Building

(NEW)

SENATE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

No activities of interest have been scheduled.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE NEGOTIATIONS AND FLOOR VOTES

No activities of interest have been scheduled.

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